



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**N E W S   R E L E A S E**

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, announced today that Jody Edelman, 40, of Syracuse, New York was convicted by a jury in U.S. District Court on Friday, March 28, 2010 following a four day jury trial. The jury found Edelman guilty of three counts of Possession With Intent to Distribute heroin, cocaine base (crack) and cocaine in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1). The jury also found Edelman guilty of Escape from a federal halfway house in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 751.

Edelman is scheduled to be sentenced on September 28, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. before the Hon. Frederick J. Scullin, Jr., Senior United States District Court Judge. He faces a mandatory life sentence.

At trial, the government introduced evidence that Edelman had been ordered to reside at a federal halfway house in Syracuse between June and November 2008. However, the evidence showed that

during the same period, Edelman had acquired an apartment at the Skyline Apartments at 753 James Street in Syracuse to conduct a drug selling operation during hours that he was supposed to be working at a local business. When authorities became suspicious of his whereabouts, Edelman escaped from the halfway house.

He was later apprehended by U.S. Marshal's in the lobby of the Skyline Apartments on October 2, 2008. A search of his apartment revealed sizeable quantities of heroin, crack, cocaine, packaging materials along with a 12 ton press used to compress cocaine into kilogram size quantities.

Edelman faces a mandatory life sentence as the result of two prior drug convictions. He was convicted in 1993 of Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine in U.S. District Court in Syracuse. In 2002, he was again convicted in Onondaga County Court for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Syracuse Office, and the United States Marshal's Service. The case was prosecuted by Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney John G. Duncan. For more information, please call 448-0672.